

*Get Involved!*

## GET INVOLVED ... VOLUNTEER!

**City of Bloomington Parks and Recreation Department • Volunteer Opportunities**  
**401 N. Morton, Ste. 250 • Bloomington IN 47404**

Bloomington Parks and Recreation has earned Community Wildlife Habitat certification from the National Wildlife Federation. The Bryan Park Creek naturalized area played a key role in certification and requires periodic maintenance to control invasive plants and ensure native plant success.

**Duties:** Volunteers assist with monthly upkeep of this natural area along beautiful Bryan Park Creek. Help maintain native plants by cutting back overgrown brush, removing invasive plants, and collecting native plant seeds.

**Program Time:** 5:30–7 p.m.

**Location:** Bryan Park, 1100 S. Woodlawn Ave.—Woodlawn Shelter

**Age of Volunteers:** 12 yrs. and up (Children under age 12 yrs. must be accompanied by an adult.)

**Number of Volunteers:** 5–30

*"Why do we need so many kinds of apples? Because there are so many folks."*  
—Liberty Hyde Bailey

Apple Tasting returns to the Farmers' Market with the fruit of our area growers' labors. Find a perfectly meaty, soft-skinned apple for an afternoon snack or a just-right firm and crisp apple for your favorite crisps and pies. Apple Tasting will rock you to the core!


**Duties:** When you think of fall in Indiana, you have to think apples. Volunteers distribute samples of different locally grown apples.

**Program Time:** 9 a.m.–1:30 p.m.

**Location:** Showers Plaza, 401 N. Morton St.

**Age of Volunteers:** 18 yrs. and up

**Number of Volunteers:** 10





Take a Kid Mountain Biking

Take a Kid Mountain Biking encourages communities to join together and ride mountain bikes with youth. Besides being good, healthy fun, mountain biking develops a connection between kids and the natural world around them.

Duties:

Kids maneuver through twisting singletrack, jump logs, and leap flagstone obstacles in our ¼-mile kid-size obstacle course. Volunteers serve as spotters by emphasizing safety, instructing on technique, and cheering on their efforts.

Program Time:

Location:

Age of Volunteers:

Number of Volunteers:

10 a.m.–2 p.m.

RCA Park, 1400 RCA Park Dr.

18 yrs. and up

6–8

Fall Tree Planting

Ignite your environmental consciousness by planting trees. Bloomington was recognized by the National Arbor Day Foundation in 1984 as Indiana's first Tree City USA. Bloomington has each year since 1984 successfully met all the criteria necessary to keep its Tree City USA designation.

Duties:

Several trees in Miller-Showers Park succumbed to environmental conditions. Approximately 20 new trees will line the streets of Walnut and College providing a green Bloomington welcome. Volunteers learn proper tree planting techniques from our urban forestry staff then dig holes, place trees, and lay mulch.

Program Time:

Location:

Age of Volunteers:

Number of Volunteers:

9 a.m.–noon

Staging takes place at Miller-Showers Park, 1500 N. College Ave.

12 yrs. and up

40

Healthy Halloween Party

The health and wellness witches are throwing a Healthy Halloween Party at the Banneker Community Center, and the entire family is invited! Come in costume and take part in the costume contest, plus have a howling good time playing Halloween games, enjoying spooky snacks, and trying on some sweet (or scary!) face painting!

Duties:

Bring the healthy to Halloween. Volunteers can come dressed in a costume and facilitate fantastically frightening activities for children to enjoy.

Program Time:

Location:

Age of Volunteers:


Number of Volunteers:

5–8:30 p.m.

Banneker Community Center, 930 W. Seventh St.

16 yrs. and up

5



Trick or Treat Trail

Hi, Ho, Hi, Ho, into the woods we'll go. The wooded trail comes to life with characters and stories, oh what a sight. Children put on their costumes and grab their bags, there is a lot of fun to be had.

Duties:

Volunteers step into the magical world of fairy tale and cartoon land and bring a character to life. We'll provide the story line, and volunteers provide the enthusiasm and creativity.

Program Time:

Location:

Age of Volunteers:

Number of Volunteers:

Other:


noon–5 p.m.

RCA Community Park, 1400 W. RCA Park Dr.

16 yrs. and up

20–25

All costumes provided.



Skate and Skate

Halloween ... on ice! Kids and adults skate to spooky tunes and skate through our haunted house on ice. Skate in costume for a chance to win prizes.

Duties:

Looking for a unique, spooky, great time this Halloween, and a reason to dress in costume? Shift 2 volunteers will be a character in the haunted or happy house. Shift 1 volunteers transform the Frank Southern Ice Arena into a Halloween haven and bring the theme of the haunted house to life.

Program Time:

Location:

Age of Volunteers:

Number of Volunteers:

Other:

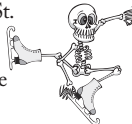
Shift #1, noon–4 p.m./Shift #2, 5–10 p.m.

Frank Southern Ice Arena, 2100 S. Henderson St.

16 yrs. and up

15–20

We'll contact prospective volunteers to coordinate volunteer role or character assignment.



Putting the Gardens to Bed

Gardeners and others with green thumbs are invited to clear the plots and put the gardens to bed for the winter months.

Duties:

Volunteers harvest produce left in the gardens and prepare it for donation to the Hoosier Hills Food Bank; remove hardware items from the garden, including tomato cages and stakes, and organize them for convenient storage; and pull remaining plants from the plots and place them in the compost bins.

Program Time:

Locations:

1–4 p.m. all days

Butler Park Community Gardens, 812 W. Ninth St. and Willie Streeter Community Gardens, 2120 S. Highland Ave.

Age of Volunteers:

Number of Volunteers:

12 yrs. and up

10–15 for Butler Park Community Gardens, 20–25 for Willie Streeter Community Gardens

Festival of Ghost Stories

An ink-black night with leering jack-o'-lanterns and crisp cider set the stage for an evening of live storytelling beneath the stars. A Halloween-time tradition for more than 33 years, the Festival of Ghost Stories features haunting tales of ghosts and horror that will tingle the spine. Those who dare bring their lawn chairs or blankets, and dress warmly to avoid the chill as seasoned storytellers spin their tales in the dark.

Duties:

Whether you're decorating for the event or serving up hot apple cider, you're sure to have a chillingly great time.

Program Time:

Location:

Age of Volunteers:

Number of Volunteers:

6–9 p.m.

Bryan Park, 1001 S. Henderson St.

18 yrs. and up

4–6

Soup Tasting

Few things are more comforting than cold hands wrapped around a warm cup of soup. The weather may be cooling down, but the soup is heating up for the ninth annual Soup Tasting on Showers Plaza. Celebrate this cool weather harvest from field and farm as area chefs showcase their expertise with this versatile comfort food. Sampling is warmly encouraged.

Duties:

Volunteers assist with setting up soup tasting area, overseeing the chef demonstrations, and distributing samples of different soups.

Program Time:

Location:

Age of Volunteers:


Number of Volunteers:

8:45 a.m.–1:30 p.m.

Showers Plaza, 401 N. Morton St.

18 yrs. and up

10



The Bloomington Pumpkin Launch

Fall has arrived and pumpkins are flying in the skies over the Monroe County Fairgrounds. Teams have formed and built pumpkin launching devices and spectators are lining up to watch the fun! Launcher teams send pumpkins soaring through the air in competitions for both accuracy and distance. In addition to the pumpkin launching, there are activities for children, food vendors, live music, and the festive feel of fall!

Duties:

Launch into fall by assisting with event preparation, parking, registration, competition supervision, and children's area.

Program Time:

Location:

Age of Volunteers:

Number of Volunteers:

Shift #1, 9 a.m.–12:30 p.m./Shift #2, noon–3:30 p.m.

Monroe County Fairgrounds, 5700 W. Airport Rd.

16 yrs. and up

5 per shift

Holiday Market

Don't miss the 13th annual Holiday Market! Shop for favorite locally grown farm products, and arts and fine crafts created by local artisans, all while listening to the music of the season. The TubaSantas fill the Market with holiday spirit, and St. Nick and his reindeer will visit too!

Duties:

We're looking for volunteer elves to decorate, serve refreshments, and assist with teardown.

Program Time:

Location:

Age of Volunteers:

Number of Volunteers:

Other:

Shift #1, 9:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m./Shift #2, noon–4 p.m.

Showers Plaza, 401 N. Morton St.

16 yrs. and up

6 per shift

Come dressed according to the weather. Don't forget your hats and gloves!



ONGOING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

TRAINING: Volunteers are required to attend a volunteer orientation prior to program.

Banneker Afterschool Program

Help students excel in math and reading skills by volunteering to read with students and review basic school-age mathematics. Additionally, facilitate activities in art and science and engage children in active games that stimulate creativity and critical thinking.

Duties:

Whether you enjoy working with youth or have professional aspirations to, this service opportunity gives you hands-on experience. Tutor one-on-one or in small groups twice weekly.

Program Time:

Location:

Age of Volunteers:

Number of Volunteers:

Other:

3:30–5 p.m.

Fairview Elementary School, 500 W. Eighth St.

18 yrs. and up

8–10 per day, Monday–Thursday

We ask that you commit to two days a week for the entire semester.

Sport Shorties Fall Ball

During this six-week program, Sport Shorties athletes learn the basic skills of soccer, basketball, and tee ball in a fun and safe recreational atmosphere.

Duties:

Are you a sports fanatic? Do you like children at the adorable ages of 3–6 yrs.? Here is your chance to help us develop our next Albert Pujols, Abby Wambach, or LeBron James. Coaches are assigned a one-hour shift between 9 a.m.–2 p.m. Twin Lakes Recreation Center, 1700 W. Bloomfield Rd.

Program Time:

Location:

Age of Volunteers:

Number of Volunteers:

Other:

Saturdays, August 22–October 3

16 yrs. and up

10–14

Coaches Orientation—Thursday, August 20, 5:30–6:15 p.m. at the Twin Lakes Recreation Center.



Bloomington Youth Basketball Instructional—Season I

This instructional program for players in grades K–6 teaches the fundamentals of the game of basketball and how to apply learned skills in game situations. Tuesday and Thursday evening sessions include instruction in passing, shooting, conditioning, rebounding and fundamentals of offense and defense. These sessions will be in station format and will provide skill progression from week to week.

Duties:

Volunteers work with small groups of youth to break down the fundamentals of the game.

Program Time:

Location:

Age of Volunteers:

Number of Volunteers:

Other:

Tuesdays and Thursdays, September 1–24

5:15–8:30 p.m.

Twin Lakes Recreation Center, 1700 W. Bloomfield Rd.

18 yrs. and up

Volunteers should be available both days for the entire season.



Adopt-an-Acre

Adopt-an-Acre is an all-volunteer program that gives the public the opportunity to actively address invasive plant issues in Bloomington and Monroe County. Griffy has thriving populations of bush honeysuckle, garlic mustard, winter creeper, privet, and multiflora rose, all which are out-competing native plants. Parks and Recreation staff provide the necessary training in invasive plant identification and equip volunteers to proactively monitor and remove impeding plants within their adopted area.

Duties:

Inspect and make progress in removing invasive plants in adopted area of Griffy Lake Nature Preserve a minimum of once a month. Complete and submit monthly progress reports. Attend quarterly training workshops or review electronic training materials to adequately identify invasive plants and learn proper technique for removing. Schedule a minimum of one structured work day per year. Staff works with you or your group to formulate a work plan. Volunteers must submit an online application by September 30. An orientation takes place in mid-October. One-year appointment starts in October. Inspections and progress visits can be completed at your leisure. Various parcels of land are available for adoption at Griffy Lake Nature Preserve. We have plot sizes for individuals and for groups.

Time line:

Program Time:

Location:

Age of Volunteers:

Number of Volunteers:

12 yrs. and up

Individuals and groups of varying sizes are welcome. Recruitment class determined by number of available plots.

Bloomington Youth Basketball—Season II

The Bloomington Youth Basketball League focuses on basketball fundamentals and the application of learned skills during game participation for players in grades K–6. All leagues are coed through grade 3; girls play in a girls-only league beginning in grade 4. Season includes weekly practices, and games on one night a week. The season concludes with a single-elimination tournament. Join us for the satisfaction of playing in a fun and positive setting where everyone learns the game of basketball.

Duties:

We are looking for coaches who can commit to once- or twice-weekly practices and one game per week or weekend. Time and day of practices are determined by grade level. Volunteer coaches will enjoy making a difference in the lives of kids and can help develop our next big IU basketball star. (We suggest two coaches per team.) Prospective coaches must sign up by Friday, October 9. Coach selection process completed by Tuesday, October 13. Selected coaches must attend mandatory coaches training on Wednesday, October 14, 6:30 p.m. or Thursday, October 15, 5:30 p.m. at the Twin Lakes Recreation Center. All selected coaches must complete an online coaching certification course from the National Youth Sports Coaches Association (NYSCA). NYSCA certification must be completed by first practice. The certification fee for each coach is \$20. The online training is available at nays.org. Scholarships are available to offset expenses associated with the online training. For scholarship information, contact Jeigh Hockersmith at 812-349-3774 or hockersj@bloomington.in.gov Coaches plan and lead one or two one-hour practices per week and one, one-hour game per week or weekend. Twin Lakes Recreation Center, 1700 W. Bloomfield Rd.

Program Time:

Location:

Age of Volunteers:

Number of Volunteers:

Other:

18 yrs. and up

50

Returning coaches have first priority for placement. Volunteers should agree to stay for the entire season. Also consider coaching Season III!

Trail Ambassadors

The Trail Ambassador program increases the overall awareness and safety of our trail system by using community-based strategies. Trail users and trail supporters unite to promote the benefits of a vibrant trail system.

Duties:

Trail Ambassadors become public stewards of our trail system. Through weekly visits, volunteers generate awareness of the local multi-purpose trail system, promote proper trail etiquette, share the benefits of a vibrant trail system, and encourage overall positive use of public space.

Time line:

Program Time:

Locations:

Age of Volunteers:

Number of Volunteers:

Accepting up to 25 volunteers for pilot program

Adopt-a-Trail

More than 30 trail miles in Bloomington's city parks need periodic inspections and maintenance to remain safe and usable. Volunteers have been valuable in establishing and maintaining our trails for many years. Parks and Recreation staff provide training and equipment to volunteer groups of any size for monthly trail monitoring and annual trail maintenance.

Duties:

Inspect adopted trail at least once a month. Complete and submit reports on trail status. Provide maintenance as needed. Do at least one work day per year. Staff works with your group or organization to formulate a work plan. Volunteers must submit an online application by September 30. An orientation takes place in mid-October. One-year appointment starts in October. Trail inspections can be completed at your leisure. Schedule your trail work day with the Adopt-a-Trail coordinator. Various trails are available for adoption.

Time line:

Program Time:

Location:

Age of Volunteers:

Number of Volunteers:

12 yrs. and up

Individuals and groups of varying sizes are welcome. Recruitment class determined by number of available trails.